

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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USICA FOR EA/MORT SMITH, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA ASSESSMENT: PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH

REF: (A) TOKYO 10534, (B) TOKYO 09517-C, (C) TOKYO 10405
1. REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH WAS
REPORTED IN SUMMARY IN REFTEL (A) AND IN DETAIL THROUGH
USINFO CHANNEL. COMMENT HERE SHOWED RECOGNITION OF
COMPLEXITIES OF INTERNATIONAL SITUATION FACING US-SOVIET
RELATIONS AND AVOIDED SIMPLISTIC TREATMENT OF U.S. POLICY
OR SOVIET INTENTIONS. "MAINICHI" 6/9 EDITORIAL REFLECTED
THIS, NOTING THAT DETENTE POLICIES CREATED FRAMEWORK FOR
US-SOVIET CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN MAJOR AREAS OF THEIR
RELATIONSHIP SO THAT DETENTE MAY SURVIVE CURRENT PROBLEMS;
BUT DETENTE PRESUPPOSES STATUS QUO AND THIS IS NOT WHAT
THIRD WORLD WANTS. THIRD WORLD TENDS TO FALL OUTSIDE OF
DETENTE STRUCTURE AND REMAIN ARENA FOR US-SOVIET COMPE-
TITION OF COLD WAR TYPE. COMMENT IS NOTABLY FREE OF
NEGATIVE COMMENT ON PRESIDENT'S POSITIONS AND TENDS BY
AND LARGE TO FAULT SOVIETS FOR "DECLINE" OF DETENTE.

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2. BOTH LIBERALLY INCLINED "ASAHI" AND CONSERVATIVELY
INCLINED "NIHON KEIZAI" SEE EARLY JUNE SOVIET MILITARY
MANEUVERS IN KURILES THREATENING TO INVOLVE THIS REGION
IN HEIGHTENED US-SOVIET CONFRONTATION. THIS SITUATION
AND SEVERAL WEEKS OF MEDIA FEATURES EXAMINING STATUS OF
DETENTE HAD DEVELOPED SHARPER INFORMED PUBLIC INTEREST IN
TREND OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND HENCE IN WHAT PRESIDENT

HAD TO SAY AT ANNAPOLIS.

3. WORSENING CLIMATE OF JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS OVER PAST

18 MONTHS FINDS MEDIA COMMENTATORS VIEWING SOVIETS AS CHIEF CULPRITS IN RISING PALL OVER DETENTE. AS ONE MEASURE OF THIS, RESULTS FROM TREND QUESTION IN NATIONWIDE MONTHLY JIJI PRESS POLL SHOW THAT FOR MORE THAN YEAR AROUND 40 PERCENT OF PUBLIC HAVE NAMED SOVIET UNION AS NATION THEY DISLIKE. THIS IS BY FAR POOREST STANDING OF ANY NATION AND LOWEST LEVEL FOR USSR SINCE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS AND 1968 CZECH OCCUPATION.

4. JAPANESE MEDIA FEATURES FOR SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE BEEN EXAMINING THREATS TO DETENTE, WITH JAPANESE CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON REPORTING TRENDS IN U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION BRINGING US-SOVIET ISSUES TO A HEAD. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, MEDIA HERE INTERPRETED BRZEZINSKI TRIP TO PEKING AS LARGELY INTENDED TO APPLY PRESSURE ON SOVIETS, AND COMMENTATORS NOW IN FRAME OF MIND TO ACCEPT THIS AS NECESSARY.

5. WITH US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP DRAWING KEEN INTEREST BEGINNING LATE THIS SPRING, ICA HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROGRAM SOME OF MORE ARTICULATE AND AUTHORITATIVE AMERICAN INTERPRETERS OF U.S. POLICIES ON DETENTE, DISARMAMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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AND SOVIET AFFAIRS. THE HUNTINGTON-HOLBROOKE-ARMACOST-OKSENBERG BRIEFING FOR 12 KEY JAPANESE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CRITICS (REF B), MICHAEL NACHT'S RECENT INTENSIVE SESSIONS HERE AND THE CURRENT PROGRAMMING OF MIT'S WILLIAM GRIFFICH, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY U. ALEXIS JOHNSON AND GASTON SIGUR OF SINO-SOVIET INSTITUTE AT GWU PROVIDE TIMELY EXCHANGE AND IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVES ON MAIN ASPECTS OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND COURSE OF DETENTE. GRIFFITH HAS BEEN DOING UNUSUALLY EFFECTIVE JOB OF INTERPRETING PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH AND BRZEZINSKI'S "MEET THE PRESS" INTERVIEW AGAINST BACKGROUND OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE.

6. IN ASSESSMENT ON UNSSOD (REFTEL C), POST SUGGESTED AGENCY PROVIDE AUTHORITATIVE NON-AMERICAN COMMENT ON VICE PRESIDENT'S UNSSOD SPEECH. SIMILAR MATERIAL ON ANNAPOLIS SPEECH ALSO COULD BE VALUABLE. COULD ALSO MAKE GOOD USE OF VTR DISCUSSION BETWEEN ARTICULATE USG SPOKESMAN AND WELL-KNOWN ACADEMIC OR MEDIA SPECIALIST ON SOVIET AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE PERSPECTIVE ON RECENT AMERICAN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS RE USSR AND PRC. VTR WOULD BE USED TO REINFORCE RECENT SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS WITH KEY AUDIENCES. FORSTER

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